



Prepared By:
Department of Community &
Economic Development
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City of South Bend, IN
Stephen Luecke, Mayor

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES CORPORATION

General Information

NRC MISSION

To build and foster neighborhood organization capacity through three basic NRC objectives.

- Technical Assistance
 - Grant Preparation
 - Reference Resources
- Resource Development
 - Grants
 - Resource Management
 - Funding Identification
- Linkage Support
 - Education & Training
 - Community Outreach
 - Community Partnerships

NRC GOALS

- Strengthen organizational structure of existing neighborhood organizations
- Encourage and develop leadership skills in existing neighborhood organizations
- Identify and encourage people interested in developing a neighborhood organization and/or block group
- Identify potential resources available for neighborhood organizations
- Strengthen organizational structure of Neighborhood Partnership Centers
- Strengthen relationship with Higher Education Institutions
- Seek additional outside funding
- Strengthen community partnerships

BOARD

The NRC Board is comprised of neighborhood leaders representing all segments of the City. There are also representatives from the South Bend Common Council, University of Notre Dame, Indiana University South-Bend, City of South Bend, and the United Religious Community that serve on the Board. Each of the representatives serves three year staggered terms.

Board of Directors

Officers

President	Scott McKibbin, Near Northwest Neighborhood Inc
Vice President	Caleb Congrove, Downtown South Bend
Treasurer	Professor James Davis, University of Notre Dame
Secretary	Catherine Toppel, City of South Bend Code Enforcement

Members

Noreen Deane-Moran, Near Westside Neighborhood Association

Wayne Curry, Jr. Northeast Neighborhood Council

Karla Riley, Near Westside Cooperative Alliance

Diana Hess, Indiana University-South Bend

Mike Kruk, Westside Neighborhood Organization

Karen Urbacke, Monroe Park Neighborhood Association

John Reese, United Religious Communities

Chuck Reger, Chapin Park Neighborhood Association

Carolyn Archie, LaSalle Park Neighborhood Association

Lorenzo Teague, Howard Park Neighborhood Association

Estella Owens, LaSalle Area Neighborhood Association

Ann Puzzello, South Bend, Common Council

Bold Italics indicates new Board Members.

Board members also serve on issue-specific subcommittees of NRC that meet a minimum of twice a year. Currently there are five vacant board positions, which we are soliciting for with a newly developed Board Application.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP CENTERS

There are currently five, city-wide Neighborhood Partnership Centers, located at the Near Westside, River Park, Rum Village, Westside, and the LaSalle Area Neighborhoods.

- Near Westside Partnership Center-Cindy Deleon, Coordinator
- River Park Partnership Center-Vacant, Coordinator
- Rum Village Partnership Center- Judith Elia, Coordinator
- Westside Partnership Center-Valarie Nevarez, Coordinator
- LaSalle Area Partnership Center- Susan Adamek, Coordinator

Each of these Centers facilitates community development through youth programs, senior programs, newsletter publication, and other community building efforts. There is a coordinator at each Center to oversee the daily operations and develop/maintain neighborhood programs, and a Partnership Center Committee to serve as a decision making group.

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES CORPORATION
2006 ANNUAL REPORT

I. NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP CENTERS

NRC operates five NPCs through Civil City grants provided by the City of South Bend, with each NPC receiving a yearly budget of \$40,333.00. Currently, NRC is holding \$178,666.34 for the development of new center, and this money along with other savings has been invested into CDs that are estimated to earn \$14,167.10 annually. Each NPC continues to provide services tailored to its' neighborhood, and assists in neighborhood capacity building.

LaSalle Area- The NPC Committee and Coordinator held several crime awareness programs before the NPC moved. When the move was done, the annual block party began, as did several other traditions including the kids Christmas party and food basket distribution, with sponsorship from Martin's Supermarkets, to five needy neighborhood families. Overall, LaSalle Area NPC board members carried the same energy to the new Center as they had at the old.

LaSalle Area started out the second half of 2006 in a new home at 1146 North Huey Street, two blocks away from the former Center on Olive Street. The grand opening, in July, was attended by the Mayor and covered extensively by the media. Community Development Block Grant funds were used for new curbs, sidewalks, and street trees on Humboldt Street from O'Brien to College and paving from Olive to College. The City also provided \$18,000 worth of home improvement matching grants in the immediate area of the new Center through the Residential Enhancement Program.

Rum Village-Has continued providing youth and senior services to the residents of the service area, and partnered with outside agencies to provide services. The Service Area's Residential Enhancement Program had a successful year, as it leveraged \$23,279.50 in private investment with \$22,392.50 of City funds for a total investment of \$45,662.00 into the service area. NRC Staff worked with neighborhood residents to support a rezoning request to aid in the redevelopment of a critical neighborhood intersection. Recently, the Rum Village Neighborhood Association has struggled with attracting residents to join the organization and the NPC Committee. Efforts are underway to expand membership in the RVNA.

West Side- In 2006, the West Side Neighborhood Partnership Center continued activities that addressed neighborhood housing, infrastructure, appearance, public safety, education, and community development. The WSNPC connected eight residents to City matching grants to make more than \$47,000 of improvements to their homes and promoted the construction of new housing in the area. Through Community Development Block Grant funds, new curbs and sidewalks were installed on Harris and Ford Streets. The Adopt-A-Block litter clean-up effort expanded in 2006 on the West Side. As part of the Weed & Seed strategy, the WSNPC assisted in bringing soccer field playing surface improvements and bleachers to Pulaski Park and offered more programming. The WSNPC expanded its after-school program for youth and hosted new adult programs, including career and job search assistance. Communication and organization

among residents, businesses, and service providers was enhanced through WSNPC newsletters, open houses, and other special events.

River Park - In 2006, the River Park Neighborhood Partnership Center continued a number of ongoing initiatives during the final year in their current service area. The Residential Enhancement Matching Grant Program, now in its fifth year, provided grant funding in the amount of \$22,414.95 to 7 homeowners. When combined with the private contributions to these home improvement projects, the total neighborhood investment equaled \$47,682.90. 2006 also saw the completion of the fourth phase of public works improvements in the service area. This public works initiative consisted of replacing those handicapped ramps and alley approached in poorest condition based upon past surveys, including the final one completed in 2006. The code enforcement and crime prevention representative continued to hold regular hours at the center to meet specific resident concerns. The partnership center also maintained the following programming and outreach in 2006: K.A.R.E. Kids, Cooperative Extension of St. Joseph County St. Joseph County Medical Nurse (including flu shots), and Senior Board Games.

Near West Side -During 2006, the Near Westside Neighborhood Partnership Center (NWSNPC) continued activities to improve neighbor awareness, infrastructure and appearance, crime prevention, collaboration between area stakeholders, and community development. The NPC Committee continued its outreach efforts with the 6th annual Senior Outreach Luncheon. The event was attended by over 250 residents, officials and stakeholders. This year the NPC Committee also held the 2nd annual Senior Prom for Senior Citizens, which was again a success, drawing more than 100 seniors. Through Community Development Block Grant funds new curbs and sidewalks were installed along the 200-300 blocks of Huey Street and the 200 block of O'Brien Street. Also, the Alley Lighting program was continued this year. A total of 94 alley lights are paid for through this program, which provide coverage to roughly half of the neighborhood. In conjunction with providing the alley lights, the center helped inform neighbors that they can "Adopt-A-Light" which places the cost of the alley light on their monthly bill instead of being turned off. For the 3rd year, grants were provided to neighbors to make improvements to their homes, resulting in a total investment of \$16,076.50 in the neighborhood.

II. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

In order to provide the board with adequate budgetary information to make strategic decisions staff developed a preliminary 2007 budget. Upon completion and approval, the budget will be integrated into the monthly financial reports board members receive.

As of November 30th 2006 the NRC had \$286,059.05 in cash and investments. A large majority of these funds, 97.5 percent, are in four certificates of deposits (CD) options. To date, these CDs have outperformed their estimated annual earnings of \$14,167.10 by \$1,213.69.

Due to the budgetary constraints of the City of South Bend, and the NRC's desire to fulfill its' mission by expanding programming, the board has discussed implementing a fundraising program that will seek partnerships with the private sector and charitable foundations. At the request of Treasurer Jim Davis, Notre Dame graciously provided NRC an extensive list of potential foundations to seek grants from.

III. Grant Making

In 2006, NRC awarded \$1,289.00 in grants to two neighborhood organizations and the South Bend Police Department. Since 1994, NRC has funded a total of \$118,965.10 in grants. Summaries of the projects that were funded in 2006 can be found below.

- Howard Park Neighborhood Association, Date, \$800
Request for funding to cover costs associated with incorporation as 501c3 non-profit organization. NRC required the HPNA to raise matching funds.
- Monroe Park Neighborhood Association, June 19, 2006, \$289
Request for funding to cover costs associated with postage and paper to mail Monroe Park newsletters to absentee landlords.
- South Bend Police Department, August 18, 2006 \$200
Request for funding for food items for the National Night Out event
- LaSalle Grant Extension, November, 2006, \$1,173.50
Extends request for funding to cover costs associated with incorporation as 501c3 non-profit organization by enabling an additional year to utilize their remaining balance of \$1,173.50 of the initial grant made in 2003.

Block Party Grants

Sixteen Block Party Grants were made in 2006 at maximum funding levels of \$150.00 each. To date, ten of the grantees have completed their block parties and received reimbursement. The average cost of the completed block parties to NRC was \$128.50. The following statements from the required reporting forms demonstrate that the events were successful in meeting NRC goals:

- “The grant program is great for meeting new neighbors. We had many people at our function that we otherwise would not have met. We feel that this event sunk roots into this Southside neighborhood.” Dutch Court Association
- “Building personal relationships with our neighbors is the best way to grow and strengthen the neighborhood.” Near Northwest Neighborhood
- “This was the first step to encourage the networking of neighbors that someday may result in a more structured and organized neighborhood group.” Marquette Park
- “New neighbors attended that just moved into homes and older residents joined in on the fun.” Edgewater Place

Two particular suggestions on improving block parties were made on the reporting forms were made more than once: (1) plan around unpleasant weather, especially heat, and (2) plan activities for children. Four of the Block Party grantees declined their grant through expiration of the grant terms, and two additional block parties are tentative.

In December, staff created the Neighborhood Block Party Guide to encourage residents of South Bend to host a Block Party. It gives helpful tips on planning a successful Block Party that will help

neighborhood residents build social connections and a sense of community. The guide also includes all the forms you would need to host a block party like the Board of Public Works application for Street Closure, invitations, RSVPs, Common Council maps (for inviting their representative), sign-in sheets, and a NRC Block Party Grant Pre-Application.

IV. LINKAGE SUPPORT

Education/Training

In 2006, NRC was involved with two neighborhood oriented conferences, Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) held in Kansas City, MS and the Regional Neighborhood Network Conference held in Bowling Green, KY. Representatives from South Bend neighborhoods were given scholarships to the following conferences listed below.

Neighborhoods USA Conference Kansas City, MS May 2006

-5 Scholarships ~\$5,500.00 (based on budget)

Regional Neighborhood Network Conference, Bowling Green, KY Oct 2006

-10 Scholarships \$4,805.00 (based on Budget)

Required reporting forms filed by conference attendees shows that the scholarships meet NRC goals by enabling networking and training neighborhood leaders. One interesting aspect of the 2006 scholarships was the involvement of youth. Two young adults received scholarships to the Regional Neighborhood Network Conference, and several reporting forms show that attendees learned about the importance of involving youth in neighborhood organizing.

Community Outreach

NRC Brochure-Produced and printed 2,000 high-quality color brochures that inform individuals about NRC's mission.

NPC Brochure-Created a black and white brochure informing residents about the NPCs.

Newsletter -NRC produced one draft newsletter in December of 2006, which will be sent out in February of 2007.

Symposium - On October 17, 2006 NRC held an evening symposium titled "Defining the Private Sector's Role in Building Strong Neighborhoods," featuring keynote speaker Dr. Rodney Ganey.

NRC gave an overview of the organization, and the Mayor spoke as well. The event attracted roughly fifty people, and was considered to be a success. A follow-up postcard was sent to those in attendance, and the NRC board.

Neighborliness Brochures- Sponsored the development and printing of a brochure promoting good neighborliness in conjunction with the Near Northwest Neighborhood. This brochure is being expanded for city-wide use by the City of South Bend.

Arts Café-Promoted NRC with display board, staff initiated conversation about NRC with over twenty individuals. The event was hosted by the Near Northwest Neighborhood.

Promoted Edy's Ice Cream Grant- Promoted neighborhood groups to pursue a private grant through Edy's Ice Cream, that supplies ice cream for community events. Monroe Park utilized the grant for an event.

Community Partnerships

Tribute To Women-Sponsored their annual event through purchasing an advertisement in their publication, at a cost of \$250.00. This was potentially seen by hundreds of people.

Legislative Agenda

In 2006 the NRC fostered discussion among various neighborhood groups about the Common Council efforts to develop a lawn parking ordinance.

V. GOALS

The 2007 Work Plan, which is under development, will be used as a strategic document to guide NRC over the next year. 2007 will be critical year, as the NRC intends to strengthen its' long-term sustainability by forging new partnerships with the private sector and charitable foundations to ensure revenue streams.